



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Civil Rights

**Date:** March 21, 2012

**To:** Council Member Don Samuels, Chair, Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health

**Subject:** Out of State Travel for Karen Francois paid by Living Cities

**Recommendation:** The Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights respectfully requests the Minneapolis City Council approve the attached resolution accepting donation.

### Department Information

Prepared by: Cynthia Govan, Administrative Assistant to the Director, 612-673-2588  
Approved by: Velma J. Korbel, Director, 612-673-3027 *Velma J. Korbel*  
Presenters in Committee: Velma J. Korbel, Director, 612-673-3027

**Financial Impact:** None

### Supporting Information:

See attached resolution.

Civil Rights Department employee, Karen Francois, was hired in Jan, 2012 to administer the city's *One Minneapolis-Equity in Employment* initiative to mitigate the racial disparity in employment. In this role, Ms. Francois is responsible for connecting the unemployed minority community with training and jobs. She is also responsible for convening a council of advisors who are leaders from business, government, philanthropy and the nonprofit community. The council of advisors' purpose will be to support and advocate in a variety of ways that will enable the city to move even more aggressively toward closing the employment gap. Additionally, Karen is working in collaboration with other city departments to carry out elements of one of the City of Minneapolis goals, *Jobs and Economic Vitality*. Attending the conference "Building the Bridge between Equity & the Economy" will benefit the City of Minneapolis because as our representative, Ms. Francois will be participating in work that will express the ways the private sector can partner with the public sector to maximize transit projects to connect low-income people to schools, work places, and services to transform their lives. The conference will bring together leaders from Baltimore, the Bay Area, Denver, Detroit, and the Twin Cities to engage in cross-site learning.

**CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS  
RESOLUTION NO. 12-  
By Samuels**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONFERENCE TRAVEL COSTS DONATION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Minneapolis is generally authorized to accept donations of real and personal property pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens, and is specifically authorized to accept gifts and bequests for the benefit of recreational services pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 471.17; and

**WHEREAS**, the Living Cities organization of New York City, NY, has offered to reimburse the City through the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights for the travel, lodging and expense costs for a City employee to travel to Washington DC to attend the Living Cities sponsored conference focused on Transit Oriented Development being held on April 3-4, 2012.

**WHEREAS**, the conference's overarching focus is on bridging equity and the economy in transit corridors.

**WHEREAS**, no goods or services were provided in exchange for said donation;

**WHEREAS**, this donation will assist the city in furthering staff understanding of the range of tools available through economic development, finance and workforce development strategies to assist the City in building the bridge between equity and the economy in transit corridors, as allowed by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that it is appropriate to accept the donations offered.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF MINNEAPOLIS MINNESOTA, AS FOLLOWS:**

The donations described above are accepted and shall be used for to reimburse the City through the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights for the travel, lodging and expense costs for a City employee to travel to Washington DC to attend the Living Cities sponsored conference focused on Transit Oriented Development being held on April 3-4, 2012.